Journal of Problem Solving

Marking Six Years of Publication

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This issue marks the sixth year of publication of the *Journal of Problem Solving*. The reader will surely notice the new page format, which not only more closely resembles how other journals look but takes better advantage of the online only format. We are grateful to the editorial staff at Purdue University Press for this effort. Obviously, however, it is the content, not the looks that really matters, and the quality of our papers remains high. Two factors are critical in having quality papers. First, our journal receives excellent submissions. The authors of the papers work on important problems in problem solving and produce important theoretical and empirical contributions. Second, we have an excellent pool of reviewers. Our reviewers represent all aspects of problem solving. They do a great job in evaluating papers, and they do it in a timely manner.

This issue contains three papers. The first is the bibliography paper by Joachim Funke. Although the organization of this paper was motivated by three previous bibliographies published by the present author, Funke's bibliography covers more territory and adds the European perspective. Funke identified both more journals with problem solving papers and more papers. Interestingly, the ratio is still not much greater than 1: 263 papers published in 171 journals.

The second paper, by Jäkel and Schreiber, offers a set of interesting thoughts about the role of introspection in studying problem solving. In vision, we often use the term *phenomenology* for what these authors call introspection. These two terms are not synonyms, but they refer to closely related aspects of subjective observations. No one would question the importance of phenomenology in studying vision. Visual representation of the physical world is almost always veridical, which means that we see things the way they are "out there." As a result, it makes a lot of sense to describe one's own perceptions and compare them to someone else's perceptions, as well as to the physical reality. We almost always know what the other person can or cannot see from his own vantage point (perspective taking task). Obviously, phenomenology is never a substitute for a signal detection experiment in vision. But without good phenomenology, the color science would have progressed much slower than it did, to take just one example. Still, papers published in vision journals rarely report phenomenological observations (although one can hear them in conference presentations). It will be interesting to hear responses of our colleagues to Jäkel & Schreiber's discussion.

The last paper, by Pizlo and Stefanov, belongs to the set of papers that were presented at Dagstuhl conference in 2011. It describes our most recent step on our way to better understand the Traveling Salesman Problem.

This brings me to the next Dagstuhl seminar that will be held in 2014. This next conference is titled "Resource-bounded problem solving." We all look forward to this next event and to the papers that will result from it.

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